

provisions of subchapter II of chapter 31 of title 5, United States Code.

"(3) TEMPORARY STAFF.—The Executive Director may appoint such employees as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Commission for a period of not more than 1 year, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, at rates not to exceed the maximum rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code."; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking "GS-16 of the General Schedule" and insert "the maximum rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code.".

(e) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—Section 5207 of the National Competitiveness Policy Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 4806) is amended—

(1) by inserting before the period at the end of subsection (b)(1)(B) ", except that such information may be provided to members and staff of the Council subject to existing national security laws and regulations";

(2) by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (h) and (i), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

"(g) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—Within the limitation of appropriations to the Commission, the Commission may enter into contracts with State agencies, private firms, institutions, and individuals for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this subtitle."

(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 5208 of the National Competitiveness Policy Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 4807) is amended—

(1) by striking the caption and inserting the following:

"SEC. 5208. ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.";

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking the subsection heading and inserting "(a) PUBLICATION OF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—"; and

(B) by striking "on" and inserting "not later than"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) PERIODIC REPORTS.—The Commission may submit to the President and the Congress such other reports containing analysis and recommendations as the Commission deems necessary."

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said amendment.

¶121.125 KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Mr. VENTO moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill of the Senate (S. 1664) to establish the Keweenaw National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BRUCE, recognized Mr. VENTO and Mr. DAVIS, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BRUCE, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof,

the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk notify the Senate thereof.

¶121.126 INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

On motion of Mr. VENTO, by unanimous consent, the House considered the following resolution (H. Res. 605):

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the bill (H.R. 1216) to modify the boundaries of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, shall be considered to have been taken from the Speaker's table to the end that the Senate amendment thereto be, and the same is hereby, agreed to with amendments as follows:

Page 1, beginning on line 13, strike out "September 1991, and numbered 62680039-A" and insert in lieu thereof the following: "October 1992, and numbered 626-80,039-C".

Page 2, after line 3, strike out the line in the proposed table relating to the map dated September 1991 and insert the following: Dated October 1992, No. 626-80,039-C October 1, 1991

Page 5, strike out line 8 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SEC. 7 UNITS VII-D and I-M.

Page 5 line 11, insert "(a)" after "SEC. 26."

Page 5, line 22, strike out the closing quotation marks and period.

Page 5, after line 22, insert the following:

"(b) Before acquiring lands or interests in lands in Unit I-M (as designated on the map referred to in the first section of this Act) the Secretary shall consult with the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation to determine what lands or interests in lands are required by the State of Indiana for improvements to State Road 49 and reconstruction and relocation of the interchange with State Road 49 and U.S. 20 so that the acquisition by the Secretary of lands or interests in lands in Unit I-M will not interfere with planned improvements to such interchange and State Road 49 in the area."

When said resolution was considered and agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said amendments.

¶121.127 RURAL TELEPHONE BANK

On motion of Mr. DE LA GARZA, by unanimous consent, the bill (H.R. 5954) to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to clarify the status of the Rural Telephone Bank and its accounting policies, and for other purposes; together with the following amendments of the Senate thereto, was taken from the Speaker's table:

SECTION 1. IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES THROUGH TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

(a) PROGRAMS FOR CONSORTIA IN QUALIFIED LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE AREAS.—Chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XXIII of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990

(7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 2335A. SPECIAL HEALTH CARE AND DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM FOR QUALIFIED SERVICE AREAS.

"(a) DEVELOPMENT OF CONSORTIA.—The Administrator shall encourage the development of consortia to provide health care services or educational services through telecommunications in rural areas of a qualified local exchange carrier service area. Each consortium shall be composed of—

"(1) a tertiary care facility, rural referral center, medical teaching institution, or educational institution accredited by the State;

"(2) any number of institutions that provide health care services or educational services; and

"(3) not less than three rural hospitals, clinics, community health centers, migrant health centers, local health departments, or similar facilities, or not less than three educational institutions accredited by the State.

"(b) SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR QUALIFIED LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIER SERVICE AREAS.—

"(1) REGULATIONS AND SPECIAL PROGRAM.—Through regulations issued not later than 190 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish a program under which qualified consortia described in subsection (a) located within qualified local exchange carrier service areas may apply to the Administrator for grants to support the costs of activities involved in the sending and receiving of information that will improve the delivery of health care services or educational services through telecommunications in rural areas.

"(2) SELECTION OF GRANTEEES.—The Administrator shall—

"(A) establish application procedures;

"(B) review the applications submitted under this subsection in a timely manner; and

"(C) make grants in accordance with this subsection and with regulations issued by the Administrator.

"(3) PRIORITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Priority for grants under this subsection shall be accorded applicants whose applications and plans demonstrate—

"(i) the greatest likelihood of successfully and efficiently carrying out the activities described in the application and the plan of the applicant;

"(ii) the greatest likelihood of improving health care services or educational services in the rural areas;

"(iii) coordination between local exchange carriers to carry out activities as described in the application; and

"(iv) unconditional financial support from each affected local community.

"(B) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In awarding grants, the Administrator shall seek to achieve geographic diversity among the grantees.

"(4) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of each grant awarded under this subsection shall not exceed \$1,500,000.

"(5) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.—Grants to a qualified consortium under this subsection shall be disbursed over a period of not more than 3 years.

"(6) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants under this subsection may be used to support the costs of activities involving the sending and receiving of information to improve health care services or educational services in rural areas, including—

"(i) in the case of grants to improve health care services—

"(I) consultations between health care providers;

"(II) transmitting and analyzing x-rays, lab slides, and other images;